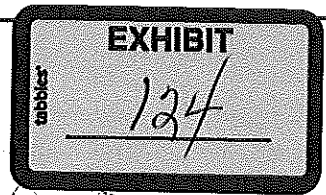




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WATER PROTECTION AND LAND REUSE
SECTION OF THE BUREAU CHIEF

FEB 02 2010

Jan. 25, 2010

Paul Stacey
Bureau of Water Protection & Land Reuse
Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Mr. Stacey,

I am writing to you as the owner of Ski Sundown Ski Area in New Hartford, Ct and I am concerned for the future of my business. I am writing to you in opposition to the proposed Stream Flow Regulations.

-Ski Sundown employs 12 people full time year-round and during our operating season we have over 400 employees.

-We draw thousands of customers in from many other states and increase tourism for Connecticut.

-We contribute to many local charities.

-We support local sports and education.

-Each week in the winter we are host to thousands of after school children from all over CT.

-We have a thriving adaptive program for disabled and special needs skiers.

-We host the Winter Special Olympics each year.

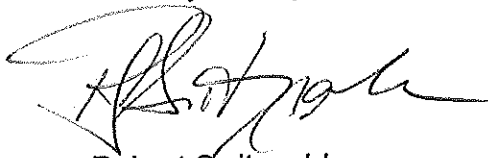
-We provide a healthy outlet for the region's youth and we provide a unique shared family experience.

-We are responsible stewards of the land. We have been taking water out of Ratlum brook for over 40 years.

Sundown takes water during the winter months and it is placed on the hill as snow where it runs off, back to its source, during the spring months. Without an adequate supply of water for snowmaking we will not be able to compete with ski areas in other states and because we can not depend on natural snow we will not be able to survive.

The Governor and General Assembly have directed the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Protection to establish standards and regulations that cover 6 different points. At the information session I attended at the DEP on December 21, 2009, it was reported that the DEP was focused on only one of those points. I respectfully encourage the Commissioner to go back and consider all of those points again to provide more balanced regulations. In particular #4: to "promote and protect the usage of such water for public recreation and #5 which asks that these standards provide for the needs and requirements of lawful uses of such waters.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Switzgable", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Switzgable
President
Ski Sundown
New Hartford, CT